

Message Text

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FOR EUR/RPE (HOMME)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 9: AGENDA

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS A-45, (B) EC BRUSSELS 1126, (C) EC BRUSSELS 1294

1. THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL HOLD A ONE-DAY MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 9.

2. DURING THE NON-RESTRICTED PORTION OF THE COUNCIL, THE MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

A. CIEC: THE MINISTERS WILL BE GIVEN A STATUS REPORT ON THE CIEC FROM THE COMMISSION AND FROM THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY.

B. DIRECT ELECTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE MINISTERS WILL BE GIVEN A STATUS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP. NO DECISIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN, ALTHOUGH THE MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE NEW ASSEMBLY AND THEIR

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C. EC-CANADA: THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS AGREEMENT TO A MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ON AN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE DANISH DELEGATION APPEARS SATISFIED WITH THE CANADIAN STATEMENTS MADE IN THE IEA CONTEXT AND HAS DROPPED ITS DEMAND FOR FURTHER ASSURANCES REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATORY RAW MATERIALS ACCESS.

D. TWO HUNDRED MILE MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONES: THE CHAIRMAN OF COREPER WILL REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF THE INFORMAL COMMISSION PAPER REGARDING COMMUNITY REGULATION OF FISHING RIGHTS SHOULD THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ADOPT 200-MILE MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONES (EC BRUSSELS 1126). A FORMAL COMMISSION PROPOSAL IS EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED TO THE COUNCIL AFTER FEBRUARY 15, AND THE MATTER IS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MARCH 1 AND 2.

E. GREECE: THE COUNCIL WILL FORMALLY RECEIVE THE COMMISSION'S OPINION REGARDING GREEK ACCESSION (EC BRUSSELS A-45). DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE RESTRICTED SESSION.

F. TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN THE MTNS: THE MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO REVIEW THE PREPARATION OF THE EC'S TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER, AND MAY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCES ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW FAR THEY INTEND TO GO (SEE REF C).

3. DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE COMMUNITIES' GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON MARCH 1 AND 2.

4. RESTRICTED SESSION: IN THE RESTRICTED SESSION (WHICH WILL BE HELD AFTER THE REGULAR AGENDA), THE MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, GREECE AND TURKEY. ON GREECE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GERMAN, FRENCH AND BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES WILL MAKE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS PUTTING A MORE "POSITIVE" SLANT TO THE COMMISSION'S OPINION. THEY MAY ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE COUNCIL ADOPT A DECLARATION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE COMMISSION'S OPINION AND EMPHASIZING THAT THE COMMISSION'S OPINION DOES NOT NECESSARILY PREJUDGE THE COUNCIL'S ACTION. MORRIS

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